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Testimony of Art Byram, CT State Representative, Road Runners Club of America

Proposed Bills before the Planning & Development Committee on February 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Support/ Oppose
S.B. 43: AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT.	Support
S.B. 90: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT.	Support
H.B. 5254: AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT.	Support

Co-Chairs Cassano, Gentile, and Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

My name is Art Byram, I serve as the Connecticut State Representative for the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA). Founded in 1958, the Road Runners Club of America is the oldest and largest national association of running clubs, running events, and runners dedicated to promoting running as a competitive sport and as healthy exercise. The RRCA's mission is to represent and promote the common interests of its member clubs, events, and individual runners through education, leadership, programs and other services.

We thank you for raising the above referenced bills, and are pleased to see the actions that have been taken to restore the recreational liability protection for municipalities and other related entities that control access to public lands. A social contract was broken with Conway vs. Wilton, when conditions surfaced that prohibited taxpayers from utilizing lands that we collectively own. The CT membership of RRCA supports these bills as we feel that it is only fair and reasonable that municipalities be given the same protection as The State of Connecticut, private landowners, and the municipalities' of other States. Municipalities, and Municipal Entities in CT need this basic protection in order to keep these lands open. Naming Municipalities and Municipal entities as "owners" would provide this protection.

Running is the largest participatory sport in America. All runners cherish the opportunity to run without the threat of cars. It is safer for runners, and drivers. Each year there are deaths and serious injuries that result from runners being hit by cars. Denying runners and other recreational users access to our public lands, forces more runners onto roads and only makes the problem worse.

We urge you to restore to our Towns the same liability protection that is available to the State and private landowners by supporting S.B. 43, S.B. 90, and H.B. 5254.